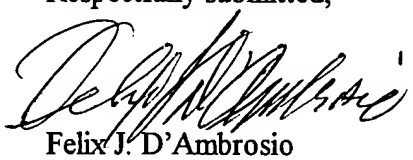
regard the discussion presented in the RESPONSE filed on December 30, 1997. A copy of pages 3 and 4 and the enclosure are being submitted herewith.

The examiner is urged to take the above into consideration when again examining this application and to contact the undersigned to discuss any problems that may still exist.

Respectfully submitted,



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the specification.

On page 6, in lines 17-19 it is stated that "...This restrains the blank from being reduced in thickness due to a plastic flow of the blank material..." Also on page 18, lines 3-4 it is stated "...so that the original thickness of the blank is not decreased...." Then, one should consider the drawings which, while not engineering drawings, do show that the thickness of the part is equal in the boss and flange portion.

It is also clear that the disclosure is directed to those skilled in the art. When those skilled in the art, read the specification and see the drawings they will realize that the thickness of the boss and the annular flat portion has to be the same. Consider in this regard the enclosed reproduction of Fig. 6B without the formed rotary member. The area shaded in red is a confined area which in effect substantially "locks' any material that would be placed in that space to the configuration of the space. The space is defined and cannot be altered. if the portion of the space that defines the boss and that defines the flange are the same thickness, then the material forming the boss and the flange will also be the same thickness.

Regarding the rejction under 35 USC 103, it is noted that neither reference discloses a confined space as this is understood from a consideration of the above. In Neumeyer, the flange portion extends beyound the die e. In the region outboard of the die e, the material of blank a can indeed thicken, or at least be deformed in some way. This cannot happen with the present invention. Then in Cros, there is no disclosure of any radial restraint so that

radial flow indeed can occur. This too cannot happen with the present invention. Reference to Figs. 3B, 4B, 5B and 6B of the present application shows that the flat portion 5 cannot flow outwardly and it must assume the thickness of the defined space.

It is respectfully submitted that when the above is considered the present specification will be seen as sufficient under 35 USC 112, and that claims 1-6 will be seen as defining the invention in full conformity with the provisions of 35 USC 112, while patentably distinguishing over the Cros and Neumeyer references whether they are considered alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 1-6 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/

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Fig.6B